

Appl. No. 10/825267
Reply to Action dated March 12, 2007
Page 11

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application.

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations of claims 3 and 4. Claims 2-4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5 and 7 are amended to independent forms. Claims 6 and 9 are amended to track with cancellation of claim 3 and now depend on claim 1. There is no new matter. Claims 1 and 5-23 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blaufus et al. (US 6,910,847). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Claim 2 is canceled, making its rejection moot. Claim 1 is amended to include limitations of claims 3 and 4. Claim 4 was considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blaufus et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Ishida et al. (US 5,151,008). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Claim 3 is canceled, making its rejection moot. Claim 9 is amended and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1 from which it depends. Applicants respectfully request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of claim 9.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration and reexamination in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the attorney of record, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455-3800.



Dated: July 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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